



WHITESTOWN MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

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WHITESTOWN LEADS THE EFFORT TO CHANGE STATE LAW

New Law Allows Communities to Lower Speeds in School Zones

Whitestown, Ind. – Governor Mike Pence just signed a new law that will allow local governments to lower speed limits in school zones. It's a change in Indiana state law that was originally requested by the Whitestown Town Council.

Large cities like Indianapolis already had the option to lower speed limits in school zones where they deemed appropriate for the safety of children. This new law gives smaller municipalities the same right.

It all started over growing concern from officials at Boone Meadow Elementary School and residents in the Clark Meadows at Anson subdivision. Their children have to cross busy Main Street daily to get to Boone Meadow Elementary School, which is a Zionsville school located in Whitestown.

In an effort to keep those children safe, the Whitestown Town Council approved a request in 2013 (Ordinance 2013-14), and a school zone speed limit was put in place. However, the school zone speed limit was only set at 30 MPH, which is the regular speed limit on Main Street, due to language in the Indiana Code (I.C. 9-21-5-6 (F)) that limits the town's ability to lower a school zone speed limit to under 30 MPH in a rural district. So although that section of Main Street is one of the fastest growing areas in the state, it was still classified as rural, and therefore Whitestown leaders were legally unable to lower the speed limit to a safer speed.

Proactively looking for a solution, the Whitestown Town Council passed Resolution 2014-07 on March 11th, 2014, urging the Indiana Legislature to amend I.C. 9-21-5-6(F) to allow towns to reduce school zone speed limits outside of urban districts.

The Whitestown Town Council requested help from Senator Phil Boots, who sponsored SEA 35 for the 2015 legislative session. It passed and was signed into law by Governor Mike Pence on April 20th, 2015. SEA 35 will allow towns across the state to lower the school zone speed limit on designated rural roads to 25 mph.

Whitestown is proud to have instigated change that will keep thousands of Hoosier children safer in school zones. And on April 14th, 2015, the Whitestown Town Council unanimously passed Resolution 2015-09, commending State Senator Phil Boots for his efforts to establish safer school zone speeds.

Fast Facts:

- Whitestown is the fastest growing community in Indiana
- A population of about 3,000 in 2010 has swelled to about 5,500 residents, with the projected population expected to be about 12,000 residents by the next census in 2020

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